

March 24, 1975

PRESIDENT: Senator Dickinson.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I was visiting with another Senator. I missed the answer to Senator Keyes. I have the same question, I guess. What was your answer Senator Koch? How many members on your Board?

SENATOR KOCH: It varies Senator Dickinson from city to city.

SENATOR DICKINSON: What is the least number that any town council might have?

SENATOR KOCH: The least number would be four.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Of total elected board?

SENATOR KOCH: Of the councilmen.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Then, how many ...

SENATOR KOCH: Now you include the major as the fifth member.

SENATOR DICKINSON: The village of Gretna, for instance . . .

SENATOR KOCH: Alright, the village of Gretna already has its prerogative. They already operate by the majority of their board. That's a second class city.

SENATOR DICKINSON: In other words they have a seven person board? There can be 4 present and 3 of the 4 can make a decision?

SENATOR KOCH: That's correct, they operate with 4 members that are present.

SENATOR DICKINSON: I guess my question is you made the parallel with the state Legislature, that we meet and have a quorum. By the same token if we want to conduct most of our business, at least, that total quorum must vote together. You're not suggesting that in the city council. Is that correct?

SENATOR KOCH: What we're doing here, we say 25 present to carry on the business. If we need 30 votes or a different count of votes then naturally you can't carry on those kinds of businesses. You have an exception. What we're saying in law here, expect as required by law. Otherwise the majority will prevail and they can carry on the business of the city.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Well the parallel with the Legislature is not quite correct because we do not carry on business with 13 members of a 25 member quorum. That's my point. I was wondering if you would object to putting this into the bill that . . .

SENATOR KOCH: It's in there.